

# ES&H Newsletter - November

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ES&H Newsletter - November 2017

## 3 LAB FIRES

LESSONS LEARNED FROM  
RECENT OFF-NORMAL EVENTS

Most of our day is NORMAL. When it's not, especially when fire is involved, it gets dangerous, scary, and stressful. Procedures, plans, and awareness promote safe work; deviations and complacency contribute to off-normal events. What can we learn from 3 recent fires?



In June, a chemical ignition caused significant fume hood damage in Hoover Hall. A graduate student moved air reactive chemicals from a glove box to a fume hood because he needed the work space. The chemicals ignited and the fire activated the sprinkler head, dousing several floors with water.



On October 3rd, a fire occurred in Metals Development when a surprise pyrophoric reaction occurred and ignited a paper reservoir normally used to gather the reactant. The fire remained small and was contained, but illustrates the need to use non-combustible items around potentially reactive chemicals.



On October 26th, a fire occurred in B15 Spedding when a heat gun ignited a cardboard box. The researcher had moved his normal operation to a work area in a small storage room because his other work area was unavailable due to clutter. He left the heat gun temporarily unattended while conducting other work and the gun ignited the box. He smelled smoke and was able to extinguish the fire before the sprinkler activated. The box also contained caustic cleaning chemicals in plastic bottles, which melted but fortunately didn't leak. The lab contains sensitive laser equipment which will need to be cleaned before work can continue.

**Safe work could have been maintained by:**



**-Stopping** to clean up the normal work station so the activity doesn't need to move.

**-Thinking** about the procedure and possible hazards - Is this a change?  
Am I ready for it?

**-Checking** the work area for combustible materials

When in doubt about your work space or activity, talk to your Group Leader, Safety Representative/Coordinator, or ESH.

# ARE YOU A HEART SAVER?

Effective bystander CPR provided immediately after sudden cardiac arrest can double or triple a victim's chance of survival, but only 32% of cardiac arrest victims get CPR from a bystander. Be an effective bystander and save a heart! Be sure to register for one of Ames Laboratory's upcoming CPR and First Aid courses.

## CPR Courses

**November 9, 2017** at 8:00am (two slots left!)

**December 14, 2017** at 8:00am

**January 11, 2018** at 12:30pm

**January 25, 2018** at 8:00am

**February 14, 2018** at 8:00am and 12:30pm – *Be on the look out for special Heart Month perks!*

**March 8, 2018** at 12:30pm



March 8, 2018 at 12:00pm

## **First Aid Courses**

**November 30, 2017 at 1:00pm**

**March 22, 2018 at 8:00am**

**Register by calling the Learning and Development  
office at 4-9972 or email [traininghrly@ameslab.gov](mailto:traininghrly@ameslab.gov)**

# GAME OF BROKEN BONES

## **WINTER IS COMING**

**Ice. Snow. Freezing Rain. White Walkers.**

**Yep. Can't stop it, so better prepare.**

**Don't let George R.R. Martin write you out of your  
epic adventure. Protect yourself  
from slips and falls.**

- Keep an eye on the weather.**
- Wear slip resistant shoes to and from the office.**

- Eyes up, not on phone.
- Three points of contact when getting in and out of the car.
- Tell ESH about slick spots at [safety@ameslab.gov](mailto:safety@ameslab.gov)

Visit the ISU EH&S website for more [Winter Walking](#) tricks and tactics.

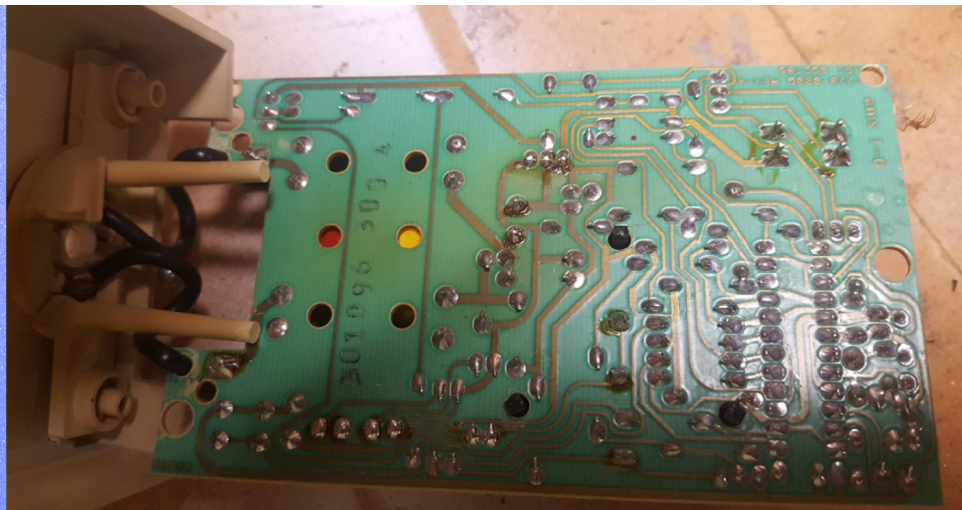


## MYSTERY SAFETY PHOTO OF THE MONTH

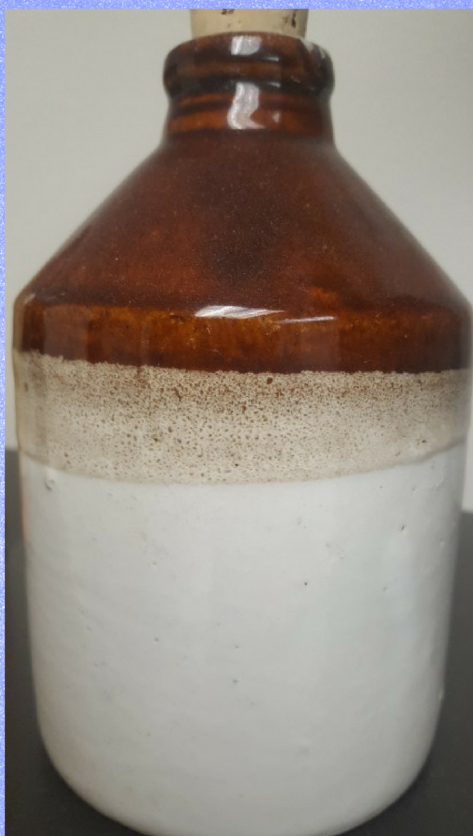
The winner of October's mystery safety photo is **Jean McMaken**, Accounting. The circuit board shorted and was responsible for activating a home ionizing smoke detector. The irony? The circuit board is from a carbon monoxide detector.

**OCTOBER HINT: "I KEPT YOU SAFE...UNTIL I DIDN'T."**





**THIS MONTH'S PHOTO HINT: THIS JUG COULD CONTAIN, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A CAR, OLD DIMES, OR THE ROMAN GOD OF POETRY. GUESS QUICKLY.**





What is it, and why is it unsafe? Submit your entry to [safety@ameslab.gov](mailto:safety@ameslab.gov) for a chance to win a prize. Put **“November Mystery Photo”** in subject line. The winner will be drawn randomly from all entries.



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